

DAKOTA PACK

MAGAZINE OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD • WINTER 2014

1742ND SOLDIERS WELCOMED HOME

» ACHIEVEMENT

- SD named most outstanding flying unit in Air National Guard
- SDNG battalion receives national training, readiness award

» TRAINING

- Training, experience shared through international exchange
- Signal company supports U.S., South Korea military exercise

» SERVICE & SUPPORT

- New MEDEVAC helicopters increase operational capabilities
- Engineers support SD community





Learn



Experience



Unwind



Play



Explore



Succeed

Let **WDT** help you find the *career you were born for.*

- ✓ Over 30 programs
- ✓ 97% placement rate
- ✓ Expert instructors
- ✓ Learn by doing with hands-on education
- ✓ 100% online programs available
- ✓ Campus tours scheduled every weekday
- ✓ Military Friendly School

- ✓ Located in Rapid City



The future you want, the education you need.

800 Mickelson Dr., Rapid City, SD 57703
800-544-8765 | 605-718-2565

wdt.edu



BORN for **THIS**



Maj. Gen. Timothy A. Reisch
The Adjutant General

Maj. Anthony Deiss
State Public Affairs Officer

1st Lt. Chad Carlson
Editor

CONTRIBUTORS

Chaplain (Col.) David Gunderson
1st Lt. Jessica Bak
Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland
Master Sgt. Kristi Palmer
Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen
Staff Sgt. Luke Olson
Tech. Sgt. Christopher Stewart
Staff Sgt. Shane Wilkinson
Sgt. Louie Clement
Sgt. Jameson Feterl
Sgt. April Masters
Sgt. Matthew Nedved
Sgt. Patrick Wolfe
Spc. Ashley McNeary
Spc. Jerico Witte
Senior Airman Duane Duimstra
Tunwa Yee

Simpsons
PRINTING

Contact us for advertising
p. 605.342.0979
f. 605.342.2053
email: heatherm@simpsonsprinting.com
SimpsonsPrinting.com

Dakota Pack is a commercial enterprise publication, produced in partnership quarterly by the South Dakota National Guard and Simpsons Printing. Views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the Departments of the Army and Air Force or the State of South Dakota. All photos are South Dakota National Guard photos unless otherwise credited.

Distribution: Dakota Pack is published for all South Dakota National Guard service members and their families. It is distributed through Simpsons Printing under exclusive written contract with a circulation of 4,500. It is also available at our website: sdguard.ngb.army.mil.

How to reach us: Questions or comments for Dakota Pack should be directed to the SDNG Public Affairs Office: 2823 West Main Street, Rapid City, SD 57702. 605.737.6721. fax: 605.737.6677. ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil.

Submissions: Print and photo submissions of general interest to members of the SDNG, their families, civilian employees, veterans and retirees are invited and encouraged. Please send article and photos with name, phone number, e-mail, complete mailing address and comments to: ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil. 605.737.6721. Submissions are subject to editing. Electronic submissions are preferred and digital photos should be at least 300 dpi.

DAKOTA PACK

Magazine of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard



FEATURES

- 14 1742nd Transportation Company returns from Afghanistan
- 16 SD named most outstanding flying unit in Air National Guard
- 17 SDNG battalion receives national training, readiness award
- 18 Training, experience shared through international exchange

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 ALPHA CORNER
- 5-7 GUARD NEWS BRIEFS
- 8-13 THE GUARD STORY
- 8 New MEDEVAC helicopters increase operational capabilities
- 9 Bosslift shows Guard employers the bigger picture
- 10 Engineers win national award, advance to DoD competition
- 11 Engineers support community of Delmont
- 12 Battle of the Blades challenges, trains operators
- 13 Signal company supports U.S., South Korea military exercise
- 19 FAMILY FOCUS
- 21 DIVERSITY FOCUS
- 23 CHAPLAIN'S CORNER
- 24 SNAPSHOTS



VISIT US ON THE WEB: sdguard.ngb.army.mil

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/southdakotationalguard

FLICKR: www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard

TWITTER: twitter.com/SD_Guard

On the Cover - Spc. Bailey Slaby, of the 1742nd Transportation Company, is welcomed home at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls, Oct. 7, following a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen)



MESSAGE FROM THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

I want to begin by welcoming home the 1742nd Transportation Company from their deployment to Afghanistan where they played a key role in the drawdown of our coalition forces from that theater. This is the first time in well over a decade that we have not had any of our SD National Guard Soldiers or Airmen deployed. It is

a great feeling but it likely won't last for long as both our Air and Army Guard have deployments scheduled for next year.

It is with a tremendous sense of pride that I congratulate the 114th Fighter Wing for being selected as the top overall National Guard flying unit in the nation and recipient of the 2014 Spaatz Trophy. There are 89 National Guard wings spread across our great nation so to be selected for this honor is huge! I want to personally congratulate Col. Russ Walz and his entire team for earning this prestigious award. This achievement, when coupled with the 153rd Engineer Battalion's selection for the Reckord Trophy as the Army Guard's top battalion-sized unit in the nation, plus 12 Army Guard units earning the Superior Unit Award, puts an exclamation point on what many would consider the most outstanding training year in the SD National Guard's recent history!

I would like to congratulate Steve Warren on his assignment to the Air Guard chief of staff position, and his promotion to the rank of brigadier general. He has performed extremely well over the years in a variety of key positions, most recently as the vice wing commander. I look for continued dedicated service from him in this new role as well.

I recently attended several days of meetings with the adjutants general of the other 49 states, three territories and the District of Columbia, along with the chief of the National Guard Bureau, directors of the Air and Army Guard and key senior staff members to plan for the future of the National Guard. The threats that we and our allies face around the world seem as dangerous as ever, but based on the Future Years Defense Plan and the resumption of cuts put in place by the Budget Control Act, we will likely be faced with significant budget challenges in the years ahead. I assure you that I will continue to work with our congressional delegations to see to it that the defense of our great nation is not jeopardized by ill-advised funding cuts.

By the time you receive this magazine we will have already observed Veterans Day on Nov. 11. Veterans Day traces its history back to the Armistice signed on the morning of Nov. 11, 1918, which ended the fighting of World War I. When World War I ended, many people

around the world believed that this was the war that would end all wars. They believed this because over 20 million Soldiers had been killed, 116,000 of them Americans. Those are staggering numbers, especially when you consider that we had only fought during the last 17 months of the five-year war. A mere 20 years later, Europe was already experiencing the initial battles of what would become known as World War II. This war would last seven years and result in 52 million deaths – over 400,000 of them Americans. We lost 36,940 U.S. troops in Korea and 58,219 in Vietnam. Indeed we owe a tremendous debt to our veterans who put their lives on the line to earn and preserve the many freedoms we often take for granted. As you gather with your families to celebrate the holidays, please remember to pray for the safety of the U.S. servicemen and women who are currently serving in harm's way.

I also want to mention that November was Military Family Appreciation Month. Taking care of our Soldiers, Airmen and their families is my top priority. This country's dependence on the National Guard has never been higher and without the support of our families the National Guard would quickly be out of business. I want to personally thank our families for their undying support of our military members. The role you play is absolutely essential to the defense of this nation.

As we close out 2014 we have much to be proud of. Our troops have all returned from their deployments and our training and readiness levels are outstanding. A continuing deep concern of mine however is the wellness of our Soldiers and Airmen. 2014 has been especially tragic in that we have had three active SD Guardsmen and one retiree commit suicide. Since 9-11, we've lost 13 members of the SDNG to suicide and in the vast majority of those cases, the suicide was a surprise to family and friends closest to the victim. It is my policy that first-line supervisors in every one of our units spend some one-on-one time during every drill to visit privately and make sure their troops are okay. The fraternal nature of the Guard can often open topics of conversation that otherwise would not be possible, and our chaplains and leadership at all levels have been trained to recognize the signs of depression and where to go to for help. I rely on every Soldier and Airman in this great organization to pay close attention to their buddies and to have the courage to ask the hard questions if you suspect someone is considering suicide. Asking for help to deal with hopelessness is a sign of strength, not weakness.

As always, I want to thank all of the Soldiers, Airmen, family members and employers of the South Dakota National Guard for everything you do to make our organization so great. This state and nation are forever in your debt.

Sincerely,

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch
The Adjutant General



MESSAGE FROM THE STATE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

As I write this, I can't help but reflect on some of the Soldiers I've spoken to and represented over the last two years as your Army state command sergeant major. Thank you. Thank you for telling me what was on your mind. For my question posed to many of you,

"What would you do if you were State CSM for a day?" thank you for your honest and candid opinions and discussions. You gave me pride in your honesty and insight into the discipline instilled throughout this organization. Leaders in the SDNG will continue to make a difference for you; communication is essential to a successful organization and that has been proven more times than I can count.

The military is based on traditions, customs and courtesies, which make us who we are. They are our cultural guideline. Our climate is an evolving culture, making it necessary for leaders to ensure we stay relevant with our processes. Getting out and visiting Soldiers has helped Brig. Gen. Griese and I understand the "pulse" of this organization. Leaders need to get out and communicate their intent. Listening to your concerns was a means to keep us accountable for your wellbeing and ensure the TAG's priorities were being upheld.

After making some very hard decisions, I have decided to retire in February 2015. As I look back on the last two years, I would like to take the opportunity to highlight some changes your NCO Corps has made to better this organization, some highlights from my trips around the state and offer a challenge to our leaders going forward.

Five of us interviewed for the Army state command sergeant major position, and with the NCO support channel, any one of us would have made a positive influence on this organization. I want to thank all of you who supported my vision of going forward to make this organization better.

I appreciate the trust and confidence Brig. Gen. Craig Johnson had when selecting me for this position and I'm grateful for the opportunity. I still have my ten page "to-do" list of eight areas I felt could be improved upon, and as I write this article, I have only one area to fulfill (AGR EPS). As I found out early in my position, change is not easy. Every challenge was an opportunity to exercise resiliency in our leadership channels and staying positive regarding the changes we were making was vital to our successes. We got rid of the 60 percent rule, we got away from 1SG and CSM OMLs, we got away from making an MOS a leadership quality (left that up to the commanders), we've forecasted retirements in order to get more E-8s and E-9s DA CSM Board approval, we incorporated mentorship counseling with the EPS packets in order to track careers for Soldiers and we had the first statewide Best Warrior Competition with more than 30 contestants.

Forging ahead, there's still more to accomplish for the good of this organization and discipline will continue to be an active process to be successful. It takes a whole team to make change happen; M-Day and full time leaders together. My personal sense of purpose in this position was to stop talking negatively and just try something different. You can't make 100 percent of the people happy 100 percent of the time, but if you challenge your perspective and look to learn something new, then with a good sense of humor and optimism, I've found you can accomplish anything.

As the military transitions from an Army at War to an Army of Preparation, you will all need to remember to be flexible and adaptable. Everyone has made many sacrifices during their careers, and for that, I salute you all. Communication, trust and teamwork – it works! Thank you again and Happy Holidays.

Sincerely,

State Command Sgt. Maj. Susan Shoe

5%

Military Discount

THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE

As a small token of our appreciation for your service Family Thrift Center and Prairie Market is proud to offer you a discount at our stores.

FOOD & PHARMACY

751 Mt. View Road - 399-1377

1512 E. St. Patrick St. - 343-4326

855 Omaha St. - 343-6106

3464 Sturgis Road - 343-2525

11New York St. - 343-8462

PRAIRIE MARKET

Some exclusions apply. See store for details.

The discount is good every day to both active duty and retired military personnel, of any military branch. Just present your Military ID at checkout.

Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry

The Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry is a database of health related information about Veterans and Servicemembers. Individuals may participate by completing an online questionnaire about their symptoms, health conditions, environmental and work-related exposures, and health care usage.

Eligibility

Any Veteran or Servicemember who served in:

- OEF/OIF/OND or in Djibouti, Africa, after September 11, 2001, or
- Operations Desert Shield or Desert Storm or the Southwest Asia theater of operations after August 2, 1990.

Note: The Southwest Asia theater of operations includes the following locations: Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, waters of the Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea, Red Sea, and the airspace above these locations.

Join the registry to:

- become more aware of your health,
- help VA learn more about the potential health effects of exposure to burn pits and other airborne hazards,
- help improve VA's deployment health programs, and
- receive information about ongoing health studies and services provided by VA.



Participate: <https://veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry/>

Learn more: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov> or call 1-877-222-8387

AIR GUARD PROMOTES WARREN TO BRIGADIER GENERAL, CHIEF OF STAFF

SIOUX FALLS – The South Dakota Air National Guard hosted a promotion ceremony in honor of its new Chief of Staff Brig. Gen. Steven Warren, Oct. 4, at Joe Foss Field. During the ceremony, Warren's daughter, Ashley, and son, Kyle, helped pin the new rank of brigadier general on his uniform.

"Steve was selected as the new chief of staff because of his background and experience," said Brig. Gen. Matt Jamison, South Dakota Air National Guard's assistant adjutant general. "He has achieved so much in his previous positions."

As chief of staff, Warren will be directly responsible to the SDANG's assistant adjutant general for the combat readiness and operational effectiveness of the SDANG.

"It is very humbling to wear this rank," said Warren. "Ever since my beginnings as an enlisted member back in 1977, it has always been about the good people I've worked with. You don't really accomplish anything on your own; it is always a team effort."

Prior to his promotion, Warren served as the vice commander of the 114th Fighter Wing and commander of the 114th Mission Support Group.

Warren and Jamison are the only SDANG members that hold the rank of brigadier general.

Warren is a native of Lake Preston. He graduated from Washington High School in Sioux Falls and received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from South Dakota State University in 1981.



Brig. Gen. Steven Warren, newly appointed chief of staff, Headquarters-South Dakota Air National Guard, is "pinned" by his son, Kyle and daughter, Ashley.

(Photo by Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland)

He enlisted into the SDANG in 1977, achieving the rank of staff sergeant before he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force in 1982.

His father, Charles, served in the SDANG and retired as a master sergeant in 1986.

"Family support and sacrifice has always been a big part of my ability to serve," said Warren.

While you're fighting for *our* freedom, don't forget your *own*.

Doctors say tobacco users are 2 times more likely to quit if they use a quit coach.



Tobacco. There's no freedom in it.

1-147TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION CHANGES COMMAND

WATERTOWN –

Lt. Col. James Linn, of Brandon, is the new commander of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery in Watertown.

Linn received command of the unit, Sept. 27, from Lt. Col. Doug Bogenhagen, of Omaha, Nebraska, who commanded the unit since November 2012.

As the commander of the 1-147th, Linn is now responsible for the planning, execution and support of a headquarters battery, two Multiple Launch Rocket System firing batteries and one forward support company – totaling about 400 Soldiers in three communities throughout eastern South Dakota.

"Taking command of any battalion is truly an honor, but taking command of the 1-147th is a dream come true. I enlisted here and have worked my entire career to get the opportunity to command here," said Linn. "I look forward to once again be part of the 147th team. The field artillery in the South Dakota Army National Guard has an incredible reputation nationwide with a distinguished history that reaches back for almost a century. I can only hope that we as a team can live up to both during my tenure here."

The 1-147th also assists assigned units in meeting training, administrative and logistical requirements to maintain the units' readiness in support of their state and federal missions.

In his civilian life, Linn is employed by Sanofi Pharmaceuticals as an executive sales professional. Linn has been a member of the National Guard for 26 years.

Bogenhagen, the departing commander, will be assigned to 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, of Sioux Falls, as the deputy commander.



139TH BRIGADE SUPPORT BATTALION CHANGES COMMAND

BROOKINGS – Lt. Col. Jason Kettwig, of Milbank, is the new commander of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 139th Brigade Support Battalion in Brookings.

Kettwig received command of the unit, Sept. 27, from Lt. Col. Jeffrey Norris, of Rapid City, who commanded the unit since October 2012.

As the commander of the 139th, Kettwig is now responsible for the planning, execution and support of about 480 Soldiers in five units and communities throughout South Dakota. The battalion provides logistical and maintenance support to a maneuver enhancement brigade and attached units. The 139th also assists assigned units in meeting training, administrative and logistical requirements to maintain the unit's readiness in support of their state and federal missions.

"Taking command of the 139th BSB is a dream come true," said Kettwig, a native of Hazel. "It was the first goal that I set for myself when I came back off of active duty and joined the South Dakota National Guard. I am honored to have the opportunity to work with the wonderful leaders and exceptional Soldiers of the 139th."

In his civilian life, Kettwig is employed by the City of Milbank as a city administrator. He has served in the military for 19 years.

Norris, the departing commander, will be assigned to Joint Force Headquarters, of Rapid City, as the defense movement coordinator.

881ST TROOP COMMAND CHANGES LEADERSHIP

STURGIS – Lt. Col. Michael Snow, of Aberdeen, is the new commander of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 881st Troop Command in Sturgis.

Snow received command of the unit, Sept. 27, from Lt. Col. Todd Bartunek, of Rapid City, who commanded the unit since September 2012.

As the commander of the 881st, Snow is now responsible for command and control, administrative, logistical and training support for about 300 Soldiers in 13 assigned units and detachments in four communities throughout the state.

"I feel honored and humbled about being entrusted to command the 881st. The units within the 881st are among the most operationally relevant in the SDARNG, and the 881st staff is full of talented and dedicated Soldiers that I feel fortunate to be serving with," said Snow. "I look forward to serving with Soldiers and being part of an organization that I believe to be truly excellent. In the years to come, I know that there will be significant challenges for all of us in the military; but I look forward to facing those challenges with this 881st team."

In his civilian life, Snow is employed by Avera St. Luke's Careflight, (Operated by Med-Trans, Helicopter EMS) as a base aviation manager. Snow has been a member of the National Guard for 30 years.

Bartunek, the departing commander, will be assigned to Joint Force Headquarters in Rapid City as the J3 Training Branch chief/state training officer.



AIR GUARD RECEIVES GOVERNOR'S AWARD OF HONOR



SIOUX FALLS – The South Dakota Air National Guard was presented the Governor's Award of Honor, the highest annual award given by the National Safety Council, during the South Dakota Safety and Health Conference in Sioux Falls, Oct. 8. This is the units fourth year in a row to receive the award. Pictured from left is Paul Bruslat, chairman, South Dakota Safety Council Board, Col. Russ Walz, 114th Fighter Wing commander, Lt. Col. Eric Knutson, 114th Fighter Wing chief of safety and Lt. Governor Matt Michels.

AIRMAN RECEIVES COMMANDANT AWARD

SIOUX FALLS – Master Sgt. Julie Johnson, 114th Mission Support Group first sergeant, received the Commandant Award, Sept. 19, at the U.S. Air Force First Sergeant Academy at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.

Johnson was selected by her peers from a class of 53 senior non-commissioned officers as one of the five finalists that most epitomized what a first sergeant represents.

Chief Master Sgt. Paul Hughes, first sergeant academy commandant, selected Johnson from the five candidates as the top senior NCO in her class. Of the five candidates, four were active duty while Johnson was the only candidate to represent the National Guard.

"It was a little intimidating going up against active-duty candidates," said Johnson. "They encounter so many different experiences on a daily basis. It was eye opening to listen to all of the diverse stories from fellow students in class and it made me realize I need to be prepared for anything."

The academy stresses knowing your people and aims to give first sergeants the proper skill sets to handle any situation they may encounter.

Being prepared for the unexpected is key, said Johnson.

Johnson's goal as a first sergeant is to strive to become the best first sergeant possible for the 85 service members she represents.



2-196TH BATTALION CHANGES COMMAND

SIOUX FALLS – Lt. Col. Ted Bartunek, of Rapid City, is the new commander of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) in Sioux Falls.

Bartunek received command of the unit Nov. 1, from Lt. Col. Mark Wiesner, of Garretson, who commanded the unit since September 2013.

As the commander of the 2-196th, Bartunek is now responsible for the planning, execution and support for a variety of military courses and military occupational specialties such as truck driver (88M), multiple launch rocket system crewmember (13M) and operations/fire direction specialist (13P).

"I am honored to be chosen to command the 2nd Battalion. I'm extremely excited to be part of such an excellent organization," said Bartunek. "I'm looking forward to the opportunity to work with the great leaders and excellent Soldiers of the 2-196th Regiment."

Bartunek works full-time at Camp Rapid as the J6 chief information officer. He has been a member of the National Guard for 27 years.

Wiesner, the departing commander, will be assigned to Joint Force Headquarters in Rapid City as the Purchase and Contracting Branch chief.



SOLDIERS TRAIN AT CANADIAN EXERCISE

WAINWRIGHT, Alberta – Twenty-six Soldiers from the 139th Brigade Support Battalion and the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade traveled to Canadian Forces Base Wainwright to participate in Canada's Exercise Belligerent Grizzly August 17-24.

The exercise provided the Soldiers with the opportunity to join forces with Canada's 41 Service Battalion's Forward Logistics Group to provide supply, transportation and maintenance support to 41 Canadian Brigade Group units throughout the exercise.

U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Wayne Lambert, 139th, allied trades supervisor, found the training opportunity to be unique.

"This was a unique training opportunity to be involved in an exercise hosted by the Canadian forces," said Lambert. "I found that we are very similar in how we perform we just use different names. This training helps us work out our differences and learn new techniques to better prepare us for the potential of serving together toward a real-world mission or crisis."

NEW MEDEVAC HELICOPTERS INCREASE OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES

By SDNG Public Affairs Office



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen)

RAPID CITY – The South Dakota Army National Guard is fielding new HH-60M Black Hawk helicopters at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Rapid City.

The SDARNG has received its first two of six aircraft which will replace its current inventory of six

UH-60 A/L model Black Hawk helicopters. The new aircraft will provide an increased operational capability to support state and federal missions.

The HH-60M Black Hawk helicopter, the U.S. Army's newest MEDEVAC (medical evacuation) helicopter, is designed to support the U.S. Army's vision of saving lives on the battlefield. The SDARNG is receiving the new helicopters as part of the U.S. Army's aircraft modernization program.

Built on the attributes of its predecessor, the HH-60M incorporates advanced technological improvements that include: improved engines with increased power; an improved and more efficient rotor system, which increase lift by 800 pounds; nose-mounted thermal imaging for search and rescue; and an all digital avionics suite with a moving map, flight management system, glass cockpit with color displays, storm scope and radio systems.

Additionally, the advanced avionics suite allows for missions to be conducted in degraded weather conditions safely.

The helicopters also feature a built-in medical interior, which includes an integrated litter system capable of handling up to six patients and an integrated oxygen generating system for onboard patient care.

The HH-60M's ability to mount an external fuel system adds an additional 400 gallons of fuel and increases its range by an additional hour and a half, allowing crews to respond to emergencies throughout the state without the concern of fuel stops.

While the Black Hawks are primarily used for troop medical evacuation, they can also be used to support aerial reconnaissance, search and rescue and wildland fire suppression missions.

The aircraft fielding is expected to be completed by April. During this transition, the older UH-60 A/L aircraft will be turned in and fielded to other National Guard states.

WHY I WANT TO BE A MAVERICK



FOR HIS FUTURE

FOR MY FAMILY

FOR MY EDUCATION

NATIONAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Make your education benefits work **FOR YOU**

**REDUCED
TUITION
RATES**

Reduced tuition rate for military and dependents who carry an unexpired military ID (including retired veterans)

Be Different  Be a Maverick

Take classes on campus or online

NAU-Rapid City
(605) 394-4800

NAU-Sioux Falls
(605) 336-4600

NAU – Watertown
(605) 884-7200



www.national.edu



National American University is regionally accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association | www.ncahlc.org • 5/2014



Maj. Michael Flanery, commander of Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, explains the differences between the UH-60 Black Hawk and UH-72 Lakota aircrafts to a group of civilian employers as part of the ESGR Bosslift.



Company C, 189th Aviation Regiment crew, guide employers SDARNG onto a UH-60 Black Hawk for a 45-minute flight around the Black Hills.

BOSSLIFT SHOWS GUARD EMPLOYERS THE BIGGER PICTURE

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen - SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY – Employers of South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers got an up-close look at the responsibilities and training their employees take on while serving in the National Guard by participating in an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Bosslift in Rapid City, Sept. 18.

“The purpose of a Bosslift is to take employers from the workplace to the training site where they can see the type and quality of training their employee receives while their out for military service,” said Maj. Lona Christensen, South Dakota ESGR program director.

The Bosslift hosted 23 employers of National Guard members serving in aviation units as pilots, crew chiefs or mechanics.

While most National Guard Soldiers train one weekend a month and two weeks a year, Soldiers assigned to an aviation company are required additional training to meet annual flight-time requirements.

“I think it’s important that employers are out here so that we can show them what their Soldiers do on the weekend and why we require so much time out of our aviation Soldiers,” said Maj. Michael Flanery, commander of Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment. “It is important for employers to understand how essential our training is to be proficient. We have demanding jobs, other than flying positions, such as maintenance and welding that require perfection in order to fly the aircraft.”

Peter Anderson, owner of MAC Construction in Rapid City, was nominated to attend the Bosslift by his employee Sgt. Matthew Walters, a 189th crew chief.

“I nominated Peter because he supports me every time I need more time off,” said Walters, who has worked as a full-time carpenter for MAC since 2001. “When I came back from my yearlong deployment in 2012 he hired me back right away,” said Walters.

Juggling drill weekends and additional flight time can be a struggle when working to meet project deadlines as a full-time carpenter, said Walters.

“We make it work,” said Anderson. “As long as he gives us a heads up, it is kind of our philosophy to just make it work.”

Bosslifts give employers like Anderson the chance to get a better understanding of what their employee is specifically assigned to do.

“I’m very impressed with his duties,” said Anderson. “There is a lot more to it than I thought. I didn’t know he was a crew chief that went on every flight.”

Employers were given an orientation flight around the Black Hills on either a UH-60 Black Hawk or UH-72 Lakota following a question and answer session with aviation leadership. They also signed the ESGR Statement of Support, pledging to fully recognize, honor and enforce the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

“I believe the military has accelerated Matt’s key characteristics such as leadership, responsibility and overall maturity,” said Anderson. “We were selfishly disappointed when he deployed, but we understood and supported it. We will continue to support Matt in his military endeavors, and we are grateful for his service to both us and his country.”

ENGINEERS WIN NATIONAL AWARD, ADVANCE TO DOD COMPETITION

By Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen - SDNG Public Affairs Office

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Army awarded the Forward Support Company, 153rd Engineer Battalion, the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence during a ceremony at the Pentagon, Sept. 10.

The AAME recognizes Army activities and units that demonstrate excellence in maintenance operations to include Reserve and National Guard units.

The Parkston-based FSC was among 36 logistics units honored at the annual Chief of Staff of the Army Combined Logistics Excellence Award ceremony. The FSC earned the AAME in the small maintenance category (10-100 personnel).

The primary purpose of the FSC is to provide direct combat sustainment support for a maneuver battalion.

"It is with great honor that the FSC accepts this prestigious maintenance award," said Capt. Joshua Lien, FSC commander. "To be named the best National Guard Company in the small maintenance category is a true honor for our Soldiers."

Lien said it took a collective effort from each Soldier in the company to win the national award.

"It is simply a continuation of hard work, dedication and motivation from each Soldier in our ranks to be among the best in our field of expertise," said Lien.

After submitting a 30-page document highlighting the FSC's accomplishments in the past year, the Headquarters, Department of the Army selected the unit for an in-depth onsite inspection to evaluate their maintenance related activities.

Following the inspection, the FSC scored higher than 16 National Guard units to win the AAME and will now represent the U.S. Army for the chance to earn the Phoenix Award, the highest maintenance award given by the Department of Defense.

1st Lt. Shane Skinner, FSC platoon leader, said they will continue to maintain high standards of operation to compete against field-level maintenance units from all five branches of the DoD.

"We will keep a competitive mindset, avoid complacency and, most importantly, continue the level of support that our customer units deserve and have come to expect," said Skinner. "We are honored to be counted amongst units of excellence in the maintenance world, and we are proud to represent the state of South Dakota and the Army National Guard."



U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno presents the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence to 1st Lt. Shane Skinner, who accepted the award on behalf of the Forward Support Company, 153rd Engineer Battalion, during the annual Chief of Staff of the Army Combined Logistics Excellence Awards ceremony at the Pentagon, Sept. 10. (Courtesy photo)



We Want You!

We changed the course of history

The American Legion wrote the original GI Bill.

From the *Greatest Generation* to the *Latest Generation*,

we advocate for our military,

for our veterans and for a strong America.

JOIN THE AMERICAN LEGION TODAY

CONTACT STATE HEADQUARTERS

TO FIND THE NEAREST AMERICAN LEGION POST....

605-886-3604 or sdlegion@dailypost.com

Dakota Pack 0914

Senior Airman Cody Reece, a 114th Civil Engineer Squadron HVAC technician, cuts a tree trunk to a manageable size.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher Stewart



ENGINEERS SUPPORT COMMUNITY OF DELMONT

By Tech. Sgt. Christopher Stewart - 114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

DELMONT – The 114th Civil Engineer Squadron deployed 19 Airmen to Delmont, Oct. 4, to assist with cleanup following summer storms that left the community covered in debris.

Airmen performed the work through the Community Projects Program, which provides hands-on readiness training opportunities for service members while providing a direct benefit to communities.

The program is built upon the long-standing tradition of the National Guard, acting as good neighbors at the local level in applying military personnel to assist worthy civic and community needs.

The Delmont area, located in the southeast corner of the state, was ravaged by strong storms that left the small town covered in debris from downed trees, power lines and buildings. The city did what it could to move debris to designated areas in town but did not have the equipment necessary to move it out of town.

“We cut debris left from a strong storm,” said Senior Airman Cody Reece, 114th Civil Engineering Squadron. “We had a lot of people out there, who know their equipment and were ready to help.”

Once cut, the debris was loaded into military dump trucks and hauled to the local landfill.

“The storm was pretty bad,” said Shirley Weisser, owner and operator of the Delmont Steak House. “The National Guard helping us cleanup was

nice and greatly appreciated.”

“If communities need help they can request assistance from the National Guard as a community project,” said Master Sgt. Gordon Haldeman, 114th Civil Engineer Squadron operations superintendent.

Resource support for projects is a shared responsibility between the military and community – the Guard provides the manpower while the community provides the materials and supplies. The Guard also ensures a project will not compete with local contractors or businesses.



An Airman from the 114th Civil Engineer Squadron uses a tracked skid steer to lift a pile of debris onto an awaiting dump truck. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher Stewart)

BATTLE OF THE BLADES CHALLENGES, TRAINS OPERATORS

By SDNG Public Affairs Office

SPEARFISH – Members of the 842nd Engineer Company (Horizontal) held the 8th Battle of the Blades/Slashing Steel 2014 open house, Oct. 4, at the Spearfish city rubble site.

The Battle of the Blades is a multi-faceted challenge where junior heavy-equipment operators can learn specific operation techniques for each piece of equipment.

The event consisted of senior operators coaching junior operators through a series of courses designed to challenge the team's operation and communication skills.

The heavy equipment involved in this competition included bulldozers, scrapers, road graders, dump trucks, tractor/trailers and excavators.

Senior operators also learned how to verbally convey their intentions instead of getting on the equipment and demonstrating. The company



Pvt. Jessica Kling, a horizontal construction engineer with the 842nd Engineer Company, takes commands from her ground guide while backing up a dump truck during the Battle of the Blades. (Photo by Sgt. Patrick Wolfe)

leadership also evaluated the capabilities of their operators by acting as judges for the events. Each course is designed to be achievable, yet remain challenging at the same time.

A pre-operation equipment inspection is conducted by the operator on each piece of equipment prior to the event. All equipment involved has been used by the 842nd in blizzards, floods and fires in South Dakota, as well as overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Sgt. Karen Berger, a horizontal construction engineer, measures the depth dug by a D7H bulldozer operator. (Photo by Sgt. Patrick Wolfe)



The Center of your future

Apply Today! Spring Semester begins Jan. 12, 2015

Use your military education benefits to earn the degree you deserve through one of South Dakota's six state public universities

NOW OFFERING REDUCED TUITION RATES FOR ACTIVE MILITARY

www.UCRapidCity.org | 605-718-4112
4300 Cheyenne Blvd, PO Box 250
Rapid City, SD 57709

UNIVERSITY CENTER

RAPID CITY





Soldiers from the 115th Brigade Signal Company work on a satellite terminal during the 2014 Ulchi Freedom Guardian. (Courtesy photo)

Signal Company supports U.S., South Korea military exercise

By Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen - SDNG Public Affairs Office

USAG YONGSON, South Korea – The 115th Brigade Signal Company conducted their annual training supporting U.S. and South Korea military forces during the annual Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise, Aug. 9-30.

Approximately 30,000 U.S. troops and 50,000 South Korean troops took part in the computer-simulation exercise that enhances the combat readiness of the Republic of Korea and U.S. supporting forces through combined and joint training.

Thirty-nine Soldiers from the 115th, based in Brookings, joined service members from all branches of the South Korean and U.S. military for the computerized command-and-control exercise designed to enhance readiness, protect the region and maintain stability on the Korean peninsula.

The focus of the exercise is on strategic, operational and tactical aspects of general military operations in the Korean Theater of Operations should defense of the peninsula become necessary.

“Our primary mission was providing a secure network for the military,” said Staff Sgt. Darin Huwe, 115th training noncommissioned officer. “In South Korea we were able to work with classified, unclassified and coalition force networks.”

The exercise provided the South Dakota Guardsmen the opportunity to work with the U.S. Army’s 1st Signal Brigade, who enables joint and

combined command, control, communications, computers and information management throughout United States Forces Korea and other areas of operation.

“Korea is a major hub for signal communications in the Army and they are testing several cutting edge technologies,” said Capt. Bracken Robinson, 115th commander. “Working with the 1st Signal Brigade gave our Soldiers the opportunity to familiarize themselves with equipment that is not native to the South Dakota National Guard, yet we would use in a deployed environment.”

The South Dakota Soldiers served in several locations throughout the Korean peninsula and trained on the latest technology in the world of communications.

“It was great to not only get our hands on new equipment, but to see different techniques we can implement with our equipment,” said Huwe. “Traveling to Korea was a fantastic experience for all of us in the signal company and we’re looking forward to applying the lessons learned from the exercise.”



1742ND TRANSPORTATION COMPANY RETURNS FROM AFGHANISTAN

Marissa Mann, of Milbank, holds up a sign welcoming home her boyfriend, Spc. Michael Stone, of the 1742nd Transportation Company, during the unit's return from Afghanistan. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen)

By SDNG Public Affairs Office, Sgt. Jameson Feterl and Spc. Ashley McNeary - 1742nd Trans. Co.

Hundreds of family members, friends and community supports gathered at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls, Oct. 7, to welcome home 162 Soldiers from the South Dakota Army National Guard's 1742nd Transportation Company.

The ceremony was held to honor the Sioux Falls and Flandreau-based unit's return from a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Soldiers received a rock star welcome as they entered the sports complex's arena floor to music and a roaring crowd.

"What a great way to welcome home the Soldiers of the 1742nd," said Gov. Dennis Daugaard. "I almost thought to myself 'They're rock stars.' That's the way it should be. Well, the 1742nd is better than rock stars."

Daugaard, along with Congresswoman Kristi Noem, Flandreau city council member Dan Sutton and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the SDNG, all took the opportunity to congratulate the unit for successfully accomplishing its mission.

The 1742nd deployed in December to provide transportation and convoy security support, perform various supply and service functions and drawdown military bases throughout the country.

"Ten months ago, I stood pretty much in front of the same audience and the receiving line that followed, and many fellow leaders, fathers and mothers shook my hand and said 'Bring them home captain,'" said Capt. Tyler Gerlach, 1742nd commander. "I will not tell you I accomplished this. We accomplished this."

While in Afghanistan, the majority of the 1742nd was stationed at Kandahar Airfield in Kandahar Province – with some Soldiers periodically stationed at other bases throughout the country.

The unit conducted 50 tactical convoy missions, leading 27 of them, while driving more than 107,000 miles. They moved more than 1,113 tons of supplies that provided logistical sustainment to U.S. and coalition forces, and more than 3,710 tons of equipment.

"Being a 2003 veteran, I experienced the set-up of many U.S. bases and the early groundwork of the war in Iraq," said Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Tjaden, assistant convoy commander of 1st platoon. "It's interesting to compare that to the tear-down in Afghanistan. Previously, we hauled everything ourselves. This time we integrated local drivers to haul many of the loads, while we provided security for their safe travel."

The 1742nd assisted in the closedown and retrograde of 10 forward operating bases in Regional Command – South and accounted for the turn-in of more than \$74 million of unit equipment.

The unit's Soldiers were often the last U.S. forces to stand where the bases once were, as they hauled away the last pieces of equipment.

"We were sometimes the last Americans on specific pieces of soil and always figured out how to get that last load out," said Gerlach.

The unit also supported supply and service functions with personnel located in three regional areas throughout the country; running warehouses, receiving and shipping points, fuel and ammo points and managing commodities such as food and water, petroleum, repair parts and major items



Spc. Justin Hassebroek, of Sioux Falls, alongside his wife, Kymberlee, holds his son, Breyton, for the first time at the 1742nd's welcome home ceremony. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen)

like tanks, vehicles and rocket launchers.

"Class 1 (food and water) is a key element in sustainment," said Sgt. Daniel Grosz, who was in-charge of Kandahar Airfield's Class 1 supply yard. "In addition to food, bottled water is a huge necessity... especially with temperatures reaching up to 120 degrees."

To keep the 1742nd operating at such a high level, the unit's maintenance section logged over 8,300 maintenance man-hours and maintained an operational readiness rating of 98 percent on 101 pieces of equipment. They also provided vehicle recovery support for convoys within the unit.

"We relied heavily on the outstanding support provided by our maintenance section," said 1st Lt. John Breeschoten, convoy commander of 1st platoon. "Their long hours, attention to detail and dedication kept our convoys moving. They were extremely vital to the success of our missions."

The 1742nd's Unit Movement Operations team operated an empty container control point; where containers were inspected, repaired and marked for seaworthy transport back to the United States, theater reuse or scrap – saving \$32 million.

"UMO is something we don't get a lot of training on back home," said Staff Sgt. Eric Niles of 1st platoon. "We learned a great deal about palletizing and about the Air Force's standard operating procedures for cargo transfer and inspection. Because the process was relatively new to us, it was a huge accomplishment to receive a first-time inspection pass."

For all the missions and accomplishments of the 1742nd, 17 Bronze Star Medals and 134 Army Commendation Medals were awarded for personnel service and actions.

"The 1742nd Soldiers once again demonstrated the work ethic and professionalism that precedes us with the image that our South Dakota Soldiers are the best," said Gerlach. "When our higher headquarters asked 'Can you do it?' our leaders and Soldiers always responded with 'Yes we will' and made it happen."

Of the 162 Soldiers that deployed with the unit, 43 volunteered from surrounding units in South Dakota including the 740th Transportation Company, 200th Engineer Company, 109th Regional Support Group, 115th Brigade Signal Company, Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, 147th Forward Support Company, 153rd Forward Support Company and the 730th Area Support Medical Company.

As the deployment ends, Soldiers look forward to going home to see their families and reflect on the "second family" they made while overseas.

"Working together from day one and living in close quarters, you truly get to know each other inside and out," said Sgt. Steven Spors, a volunteer from the 740th of Milbank. "We have become a family and together we have experienced something not many people get to be a part of."



Members of the 1742nd Transportation Company stand for roll call. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen)



Members of the 1742nd Transportation Company stage vehicles before departing for a convoy to Taron Kowt, Afghanistan, March 24. (Photo by Sgc. Jerico Witte)



Members of the 1742nd Transportation Company conduct convoy operations on their way to Taron Kowt, Afghanistan, April 15. (Photo by Sgt. Matthew Nedved)



SD NAMED MOST OUTSTANDING FLYING UNIT IN AIR NATIONAL GUARD

By Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland – 114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Fighter Wing was presented the Spaatz Trophy at the 2014 National Guard Association of the United States General Conference in Chicago, Aug. 25.

The Spaatz Trophy is presented to the most outstanding flying unit in the Air National Guard each year. This is the fourth time the 114th Fighter Wing has won the prestigious award; the last time was in 1988.

Selection is based on overall combat readiness and the unit's performance with respect to all other Air National Guard flying units. Factors included in the evaluation are flying safety, aircraft operation readiness, weapons firing, unit alerts, unit manning, skill level qualifications, retention, drill attendance, operational readiness inspections, outstanding accomplishments and special missions and exercises.

Throughout 2013, the 114th Fighter Wing deployed 220 Airmen to six countries providing Aerospace Expeditionary Forces to support global operations. Training and operational deployments included Red Flag, Silver Flag, Operation Noble Eagle and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 114th Fighter Wing participated in a joint naval threat exercise with the Naval Air Warfare Center in California and New Mexico, as well as Jaded Strike Exercise working with Special Operations Forces in Arizona. More than 75 percent of current unit members have actively supported deployed overseas contingency operations since 9/11.

This past year also saw the 114th Fighter Wing support a deployed Aerospace Control Alert mission assuring 24/7 homeland defense alert protection with aircraft and personnel.

The 114th Fighter Wing was evaluated by the Air Force during this period as well. The unit received an Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health Inspection and the Joint Staff Integrated Vulnerability Assessment, and the pilots received a Standardization/Evaluation inspection.

Members of the 114th Fighter Wing demonstrated continued support

Brig. Gen. Matthew Jamison, second from left, assistant adjutant general for the SDANG, and Col. Russ Walz, second from right, 114th Fighter Wing commander, accept the Spaatz Trophy on behalf of the 114th Fighter Wing during the NGAUS General Conference in Chicago, Aug. 25. Presenting the trophy are, from left, Lt. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III, director of the Air National Guard, and Maj. Gen. Donald Dunbar, former NGAUS vice chair for Air. (Photo by Tunwa Yee)



to their communities and state through volunteer and mentoring efforts in local schools, support of STARBASE youth programs to increase skills in Math, Science and Technology, assistance with the distribution of school supplies in Project SOS, serving meals at the "Banquet" and countless individual hours volunteering in various community activities.

"What our Airmen accomplished this last year is truly remarkable, as 2013 may go down as one of the most challenging years in unit history," said Col. Russ Walz, 114th Fighter Wing commander. "Three training deployments, overseas operational deployments with Airmen in six different countries, and three major inspections from the Air Force in one year is an amazing effort from all the 'Fighting Lobos'. And it occurred in a year where we experienced a government shutdown and budget shortfalls that forced furloughs of our full-time force."

Walz said the unselfish contributions of the men and women of the 114th Fighter Wing embody the 'service before self' core value.

"It's appropriate that their outstanding accomplishments are acknowledged by winning the highest award given to an Air National Guard unit," said Walz. "I'm extremely proud to be their commander."

SDNG BATTALION RECEIVES NATIONAL TRAINING, READINESS AWARD



Capt. Thomas Wilcox, second from right, administrative officer in the 153rd Engineer Battalion, accepts the Major General Milton A. Reckord Award on behalf of the battalion during the NGAUS General Conference in Chicago, Aug. 25. Presenting the trophy are, from left, Maj. Gen. Deborah Ashenhurst, president of NGAUS, Lt. Gen. Michael S. Tucker, First U.S. Army commanding general, and Army National Guard Acting Director Maj. Gen. Judd Lyons. (Army National Guard photo)

By Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen - SDNG Public Affairs Office

The National Guard Association of the United States awarded the South Dakota Army National Guard's 153rd Engineer Battalion the Major General Milton A. Reckord Trophy during the 136th General Conference in Chicago, Illinois, Aug. 25.

The Milton A. Reckord Trophy is awarded to the outstanding battalion in each of the Army areas determined to have the highest level of training and readiness.

"This is confirmation of the outstanding work the Soldiers of the battalion have been doing every day," said Lt. Col. David Dailey, 153rd battalion commander. "It is the national level 'pat on the back' for those that are getting it done at all levels within the organization."

In order to be nominated for the Reckord Trophy, battalion's must demonstrate superior performance in the areas of personnel strength, retention, duty MOS qualification, individual and crew served weapons qualification, the Army Physical Fitness Test, drill weekend attendance and annual training attendance.

"Striving for such an award creates internal competition between the companies that drives their excellence," said Dailey. "No one wants to be the unit that didn't achieve the standard, and with that it's also building battalion team cohesion because we need every unit to earn the award."

Nominated battalions must also have an annual training record rating of excellent or outstanding, with at least two organic or attached units that meet superior unit award criteria.

"Six of our seven units exceeded the requirements for the Superior Unit Award two years in a row," said Lt. Col. Patrick Pardy, battalion commander from 2011–2013. "The battalion was the runner-up for the Reckord Award last year and this year they were able to bring it home."

The Huron-based 153rd provides mission command and supervision for seven units with more than 830 Soldiers in 12 communities.

"The people that make up our team are what make this battalion excel," said Dailey. "It is displayed in what they do year-round. It is shown with state active duty during Storm Atlas, or getting ready for Colorado flooding, tornado recovery in Wessington Springs, or flooding in Sioux City. The engineering projects they complete and the logistical missions that support those projects. They love the challenge; they love hard work, and getting things done."

While the recognition is well deserved and appreciated by the Soldiers, both the former and the current commander agree the training and readiness is much more important than trophies and awards.

"The Reckord Trophy and Superior Unit Awards are nice but they are not what are important," said Pardy. "If your Soldiers can do the things that are required for these awards, such as maintain strength, physical fitness, weapons and so on, then they can do what is required of them if they deploy."

"The 153rd can't let down after such an achievement, we need to continue to do what we have done and improve on it and push for continued improvement," said Dailey. "The requirements for the award are established in critical areas of what is needed for a ready and trained unit for any mission."

Units under the 153rd's command include: Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Huron; Forward Support Company, Parkston and Huron; 842nd Engineer Company, Spearfish, Belle Fourche and Sturgis, 211th Engineer Company, Madison and De Smet; 155th Engineer Company, Rapid City and Wagner; 200th Engineer Company, Pierre, Chamberlain and Mobridge; and the 927th Engineer Detachment (Survey and Design Team), Huron.

The award is named after Maj. Gen. Milton A. Reckord, a veteran of World War I and World War II, former commander of the 29th Infantry Division and former adjutant general of Maryland.

Training, experience shared through international exchange

By Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland – 114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, left, the adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard, and Command Chief Master Sgt. James Welch, right, senior enlisted leader, met with Military Reserve Exchange Program participants United Kingdom's Royal Air Force Cpl. Andrew "Neil" Manson and Staff Sgt. Nathan Karber, 114th Security Forces Squadron, while the two visited Camp Rapid in September.

(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen)

The United Kingdom's Royal Air Force Cpl. Andrew "Neil" Manson and U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Nathan Karber, a member of the South Dakota Air National Guard's 114th Security Forces Squadron, had a rare opportunity to experience what the other does as members of their respective security forces for the U.S. and the U.K.

This, in thanks to the Military Reserve Exchange Program, a reciprocal program used by the South Dakota National Guard to host Soldiers and Airmen from foreign reserve forces during their annual training or similar day-to-day operations.

"It is both a cultural and doctrinal program," said Col. Tim Moran, South Dakota Army National Guard's deputy chief of staff of operations. "It affords our Airmen and Soldiers an opportunity to learn from our NATO partners."

Manson, a gunner stationed at England's RAF Waddington, serves part-time in the RAF Reserve, much like National Guard members in the U.S. He spent two weeks this summer with the 114th Security Forces Squadron, which included time in Rapid City, observing the Army National Guard, a unit training assembly with the Air Guard in Sioux Falls, and a few days in Volk Field, Wisconsin, training with the 114th's Ready Augmentee Team.

"It was very interesting to see how the U.S. does its UTA's," said Manson. "You pull all your trades together to train jointly, where we train specifically on own trade. You're as one entity and that was good to see."

In addition to training, the exchange exposed Manson to the SDNG organizational structure, equipment and capabilities.

"From an interoperability aspect, it's a valuable experience for service members to be able to work alongside their international counterparts – to learn their tactics and techniques, which differ slightly from ours," said Moran. "It may mean life or death during a future overseas contingency operation."

Manson expressed his gratitude and encouraged fellow service members to take advantage of the exchange program.

"To anyone who is given the opportunity to participate in an exchange like this, I say 'Go for it,'" said Manson, who returned to the U.K. in September. "It was the ideal opportunity to learn about our partners over the pond."

Shortly after Manson departed, Karber made his trip "across the pond" where he would spend the majority of the exchange in Sennelager, Germany, training with the RAF Regiment, getting a better understanding of allied nation's reserve forces and building partnership capacities.

"There is a variety of similarities and differences between the way the RAF and the U.S. Air Force conducts training," Karber said. "We take on a military police role, whereas, the regiment is strictly trained in base defense and combat. In joint tasking, the RAF and the USAF work well, because we both share the same concept - Integrated Base Defense."

"The relationships and training experiences that we have with all our foreign allies are extremely important for us now and the future," said Moran. "It improves both organizations and makes us stronger and more relevant. It is and has been a great opportunity to train together and learn from each other in structured training exercises versus having to do it for the first time on the battlefield."



The United Kingdom's Royal Air Force Cpl. Andrew "Neil" Manson trains at a firing range at Volk Field, Wisconsin, with members of the South Dakota Air National Guard Ready Augmentee Team. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland)

Veterans Employment Center connects service members to jobs

By 1st Lt. Chad Carlson - SDNG Public Affairs Office

Service members, veterans and their families seeking to leverage their skills and talents in their search for job opportunities now have a single online tool for connecting themselves to meaningful career opportunities in the public and private sectors.

The Veterans Employment Center is a government-wide product that brings together a reputable cadre of employers with real job opportunities, and provides transitioning service members, Reserve Component service members, veterans and their families with the tools to translate military skills into plain language and build a profile that can be shared – in real time – with employers who have made a public commitment to hire veterans.

Job seekers can also search more than 1.2 million jobs from the private sector and includes jobs in federal, state and local governments.

The VEC provides employers with access to a vault of verified career profiles from transitioning service members, veterans and their families. Employers can search these profiles by keyword and/or geographic location to find the right fit for their organization.

Employers can also launch a public relations campaign to hire veterans by making a public hiring commitment on the VEC. They also have the option to state the number of veterans they intend to hire and update their status in achieving their goal.

The VEC also contains or links to a broad set of other informational resources designed to help employers recruit and retain talented transitioning service members, veterans and their families, such as the new DOD SkillBridge pilot program to promote civilian job training for transitioning service members.

The website H2H.jobs, which previously connected service members to connect to and find jobs with military-friendly companies, has transitioned its online capabilities to the VEC.

This transition supports the White House Joining Forces initiatives to combine federal efforts to hire veterans under one web portal and strengthens interagency collaboration among the VA, Department of Defense and Department of Labor.

H2H employment coordinators will also continue to provide quality career readiness assistance to job seekers preparing for the next civilian career.

"H2H employment coordinators will still serve the same purpose and mission as before," said Dan Popowski, an H2H employment coordinator based at the National Guard armory in Sioux Falls. "We operate under the Hero2Hired program while utilizing the VEC to support our customers. The only change is the transition from H2H.jobs to the VEC."

While employers and job seekers who were previously registered with H2H will need to create a new account as the two systems cannot exchange data, Popowski said both can still contact their respective Hero2Hired employment coordinators directly to get assistance.

"We are able to mesh the incredible benefits and capabilities provided by the VA, eBenefits and the VEC with the proven assistance of the employment coordinators," Popowski said. "We now have a one-stop-shop. One place our customers can go for assistance."

The VEC can be found at www.ebenefits.va.gov/jobs. For a tutorial on how to use the VEC, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWfh1-eSoWk.

For more information contact Dan Popowski at (605) 357-2913 or email daniel.popowski@iifdata.com.



Downtown Rapid City Year Round shopping • dining • art • entertainment

This holiday season, give the perfect gift: the Downtown Rapid City Gift Card.

Available at the Main Street Square ice rink and office.

The Downtown Rapid City Gift Card is issued by Sunrise Banks, N.A., St. Paul, MN 55103, member FDIC

Select events at Main Street Square

Ice Skating Nov. 22-Feb. 28

Ugly Sweater Skate Party Fri., Dec. 5

Santa on the Square/Winter Market Sat., Dec. 6

Lights on the Ice Teen Skate Night Fri., Dec. 12

Santa on the Square/Winter Market Sat., Dec. 13

Holiday Movie Sat., Dec. 20

Downtown Countdown Wed., Dec. 31

Lights on the Ice Teen Skate Night Fri., Jan. 2

...And More!

A complete list is on our website.



**Main Street Square
326 Main St./6th and Main
Downtown Rapid City
(605) 716-7979
www.DowntownRapidCity.com
www.MainStreetSquareRC.com**

What Gives you hope and courage in your life?

In recognition of Suicide Prevention Month in September, the South Dakota National Guard sponsored a poster contest for youth on "What gives you hope and courage in your life?" Entries were voted on by service members and family readiness volunteers. The following are the winners in each category.



7-10 YEAR OLD

- 1st place: Zac Mertz,
10, Rapid City
- 2nd place: Jace Wetzler,
10, Rapid City
- 3rd place: Sami Jo Shaw,
10, Sturgis

11-12 YEAR OLD

- 1st place: Ryan Conover,
11, Sturgis
- 2nd place: Lauren Fritz,
12, Sturgis
- 3rd place: Londin Harwood,
11, Sturgis



13 AND OVER

- 1st place: August Bowman,
13, Sturgis
- 2nd place: Brooks Van Pelt,
13, Black Hawk
- 3rd place: Daylen Rhodes,
13, Black Hawk



SD Guard hosts Native American cultural workshops

By Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen - SDNG Public Affairs Office

The South Dakota National Guard hosted two Native American cultural workshops to gain a better understanding of service members who come from Native American tribes and communities.

The workshop, held in Sioux Falls, Sept. 18 and Rapid City, Sept. 25, educated 40 Army and Air Guard members on the traditions and beliefs of Native American service members, who represent four percent of the South Dakota National Guard, said 1st Lt. Carstin Jerzak, state equal employment manager.

Dr. Craig Howe, founder and director of the Center for American Indian Research and Native Studies and member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, opened the class by instructing the attendees how to say "good morning" (Hihanni waste pronounced He-hawn-knee wash-day) in the Lakota language.

"I came to speak about the core principles of American Indian cultures, fundamentals of Lakota spirituality and the tribal sovereignty here in South Dakota," said Howe.

Jerzak believes workshops like these will provide current and future Native American service members the opportunity to talk about their heritage.

"This workshop allows us to interact in an environment where we can



Dr. Craig Howe helps coach 1st Lt. Carstin Jerzak on how to say 'I will see you again later' in Lakota to Command Sgt. Major John Mallinger. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen)

feel free to ask questions to overcome ignorance," said Jerzak. "Learning about different cultures helps us overcome myths, stereotypes and old wives' tales to get to the real aspect of their culture."

Native American Staff Sgt. Chris Montileaux, believes a workshop instructed by an expert in Native American culture would be beneficial to

participants in the SDNG Golden Coyote training exercise. The exercise provides service members with the opportunity to haul timber from the Black Hills National Forest to Native American reservations throughout South Dakota.

"This is the first time I have been offered a class about our own culture," said Montileaux. "It was mentioned in the class that when we prepare to deploy we learn everything about the culture we are going to but nothing about the cultures within our city limits."

Teaching an in-depth class to the service members who haul the timber to the reservations, on the history and traditions of Native Americans, would enrich their experience, said Montileaux.

"We do the log hauls during annual training but do the Soldiers going to the reservations understand the culture other than we are bringing them logs for firewood?" said Montileaux. "Maybe they could go through a class like this prior to doing those missions."

The SDNG Equal Employment Office and the Army Diversity Council are looking forward to doing more workshops in the future to include other cultures that service members belong to in the SDNG, said Jerzak.

"Spending the day learning more about someone's culture helps everyone feel like they belong on a team, squad or platoon," said Jerzak. "It also shows that we are an organization that is progressing toward solving issues to keep people serving in the Guard and for others who want to join."



Ready to serve you.

The SDSU Veterans Affairs Office is dedicated to providing military members, veterans and their families the support they need to transition from military service to a college education. We commit ourselves to helping students build a solid foundation for their future through a veteran-friendly campus environment. Our purpose is to give students a sense of belonging and a place to call home on campus. Call us to schedule a visit and see for yourself that we are **ready to serve you.**



**SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE UNIVERSITY**
Veterans Affairs Office

1-800-952-3541 • 605-688-5585

sdstate.edu

**While you commit to your country,
let us commit to you.**



ONLINE. ACCREDITED. AFFORDABLE.

The University of South Dakota
offers an extensive selection of
online programs:

**Business – Health Care – Education
Addiction Studies and Many More**

APPLY NOW – www.usd.edu/cde



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH DAKOTA



CONTACT US

Division of Continuing & Distance Education

414 East Clark Street
Vermillion, SD 57069

605-658-6140

800-233-7937

www.usd.edu/cde

cde@usd.edu

Give Thanks



Ole and Lars were hired to put in some fencing on a ranch. At noon time the old rancher shouted, "Time for lunch guys!" As they get their plates Ole says, "This plate has some food still stuck to it." The rancher replies, "That's as good as cold water can get it." After lunch the rancher offers them some pie he made and once again the plates appear a bit dirty, so Lars says, "This plate looks a bit dirty." The Rancher replied, "That's as good as cold water can get it." After the pie both guys get up to leave, but a big old dog is laid out right in front of the door and won't move. Ole turns to the rancher and says, "Your dog won't move." The rancher shouts, "Cold Water you get out of there!"

My father-in-law, Don, who lives in Wyoming and grew up on a ranch, shared that story with me years ago and I've treasured it through the years. *(I also have a gut feeling that particular story might be based more on fact than fiction.)* That story is one of many stories Don likes to share. His stories make most folks smile, but I share the "cold water" story to remind us how "good" we have it in this land. It is easy for us to forget the modern blessings we have. For example, two ladies were preparing Thanksgiving dinner, the mother asked her daughter, "If you could only have one modern appliance, what would you want?" The daughter looked around and said, "I guess the refrigerator." And then she asked her mother, "What would you want?" Her elderly mother replied, "Running water."

There was a time many folks didn't have running water and yet those people were still grateful. They didn't have hot water unless they warmed it up on the wood stove, but they were still grateful. They didn't have a freezer full of microwaveable meals, but they were still grateful. They were grateful for

the food on the table, for the family and friends around that table, and most of all for the freedom this nation gives. Of course those of us who served in the military know that freedom is not free.

True freedom costs and I'm not referring to taxes but rather to those men and women who put on the uniform and fight to defend that freedom. These individuals are committed to preserving our freedom and protecting lives, even if it means sacrificing their own lives. What we do is a good reason for us to give thanks this season even if our plate is not full or all we have to wash dishes with is cold water, we can still thank God for the sacrifices these folks make.

Jesus once said, ***"No greater love can a man have than this to lay down his life for his friends."*** Every member of the military knows what those words mean. We take an oath to do what it takes to preserve the wonderful freedoms we have in this land. The freedoms to worship as we choose, to learn and study as we choose, to work as we choose, to travel as we choose, and to vote for those who serve in our government. These and other freedoms have been paid for by those who have put on the uniform of this country and did what it takes to provide these freedoms. For those freedoms we can and should give thanks but I also encourage us to give thanks for those who have served in the past. Those veterans deserve our gratitude for the sacrifices they made.

Personally, I'm proud to be able to follow in the footsteps of veterans like my father and father-in-law. To be a part of this group of Americans is an honor and every time someone says "thank you for your service" I reply "It's my honor" and it is. It is an honor I give thanks for daily and I hope others will do the same also.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David E. Gunderson".

Col. David Gunderson
JFHQ Chaplain

SNAPSHOTS



Members of the 881st Troop Command hosted a Flintstone-themed rest area during the Black Hills Veteran March and Marathon, Sep. 20. Pictured are, from left, Sgt. Louis Clement, Master Sgt. Shelley Reeder, Sgt. 1st Class Randy Decker and Sgt. 1st Class Rich Harming. (Courtesy photo)



Senior Airman Amanda Bradshaw, a 114th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron specialist, stands by her freshly painted 114th Fighter Wing themed mural at Joe Foss Field, Oct. 4. Bradshaw is majoring in Fine Arts at the University of South Dakota and was inspired to paint the mural to show her passion for art and her Air National Guard family. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Luke Olson)



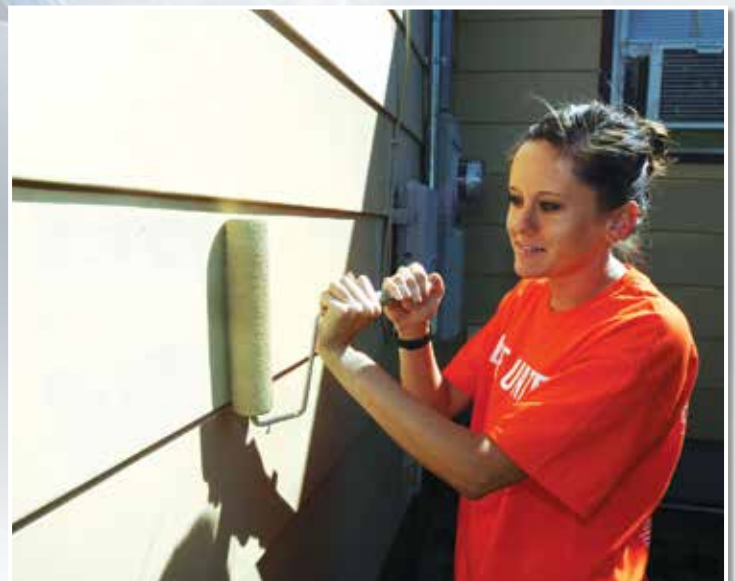
South Dakota Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Michael Carter the Human Resources non-commissioned officer of the 196th RTI teaches Isaiah Ogrady how to find an azimuth on a military compass during "A Day in the Life of a Soldier" event commemorating Veteran's Day at Fort Mead, Nov. 6. The purpose of the event is give the students exposure to the military and the opportunity to talk with current military members. (Photo by Spc. Donald E. Williams)



Aaron Percy, a muralist with About This Life Inc., spray paints a message of hope for Soldiers, Airmen and families in honor of Suicide Prevention Month at Camp Rapid, Sept. 18. The mural depicting one service member supporting another will be displayed in armories across the state throughout the year. (Photo by Master Sgt. Kristi Palmer)



Tech. Sgt. Kurt Backer, a firefighter with the 114th Civil Engineer Squadron, observes a team member attempting to complete a stage in the Firefighter Combat Challenge at Joe Foss Field, Oct. 5. The Firefighter Combat Challenge is a timed competition that showcases the knowledge, skills, and fitness firefighters achieve through their training. (Photo by Senior Airman Duane Duimstra)



Sgt. Kayla Morris, a member of 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, paints a house during the United Way's Day of Caring in Rapid City, Sept. 4. Day of Caring is a volunteer oriented event which encourages volunteerism in our community by helping people and non-profit agencies in need. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen)

South Dakota National Guard
2823 West Main Street
Rapid City, SD 57702

